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PATLAR

VOICE OF GAY AMERICA

SINCE 1982



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PATLAR

Voice of Gay America

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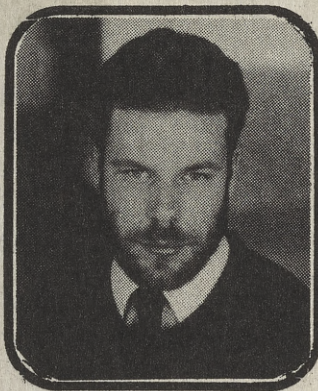
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Cover Personalities:

Our cover personalities for March are gay activists Bill Folk and Michael Kite. Last month, Bill, 45, and Kite, 42, declared themselves life partners in a gala celebration which took place in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park's Conservatory of Flowers. A gay Buddhist priest officiated at the colorful ceremony.

IN MY OPINION

by Mel Dahl



I have just finished reading the results of polls taken by the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and Gallup. The numbers differ by one or two percentage points from one poll to another, but in essence they all show exactly the same thing: Most people do not trust Washington.

Sixty percent of Americans believe that the courts favor the rich. Eighty percent think the tax system favors the rich (and 81% believe it is wrong to report to the IRS about tax evaders, at least under some circumstances). Ninety percent believe the government wastes money.

If the subject turns from government generally to Congress specifically, the attitudes are even more negative. Seventy-nine percent believe that candidates for Congress make promises they have no intention of keeping. By lopsided margins, the folks back home believe that members of Congress do not care about the problems of ordinary citizens, that they care more about their own power and special interests, that they lie when the truth is politically damaging, and that they improperly use their office to enrich themselves. Finally, only 25% of Americans trust the government to do the right thing. This after eight years of Grandpa Reagan telling us everything is hunky dory.

My immediate reaction to these polls was to cackle about how wonderful it is to be the majority opinion for a change. I vote with the majority on every one of those issues. The mood of the people last November was clear: Anybody but George except Michael.

However, the time has come, the walrus said, to talk of many things, and one of those things is of what possible relevance to gay people are these polls. I mean, given the harassment that we take from the state, one would expect polls of gay people to show the same thing, but beyond that, who cares? I have an answer.

As I've said in this space before, the state is not our friend, and for institutional reasons cannot be our friend. This has been clearly demonstrated in the wake of the current health problem, where it was six years into the AIDS crisis before the President of the United States could even bring himself to say the word. The lion's share of work that has been done is work that we have done ourselves on the theory that if we don't do it, nobody else will either. George Bush admitted in public that the "giggle factor" still plays a role among high ranking federal officials whenever the subject is raised. If not for a very courageous surgeon general, whose training as a doctor thankfully overcame his moral revulsion to homosexuality, the administration would probably still be operating on the theory that AIDS is a piece of candy you eat when you are trying to lose weight.

Apart from the health crisis, it is truly astounding to see the strong culture we have built for ourselves, with no help from Uncle Sam. There is really very little that gay people cannot do socially and recreationally. There are gay bars, gyms, churches and synagogues, dating services, publications, books, beaches, discussion groups, medical and legal services, stores, condominium complexes, travel agencies, sports teams, and so on, and so on. Any gay person who never wants to see another heterosexual again probably doesn't have to.

Gay people in America enjoy the widest range of options of any gay community on earth, and possibly any community of any kind on earth. While it is true that bigotry continues to close some doors to openly gay individuals, and that there are still individuals who suffer terribly for being gay, it is also true that gay people as a class have an unprecedented set of options for living our

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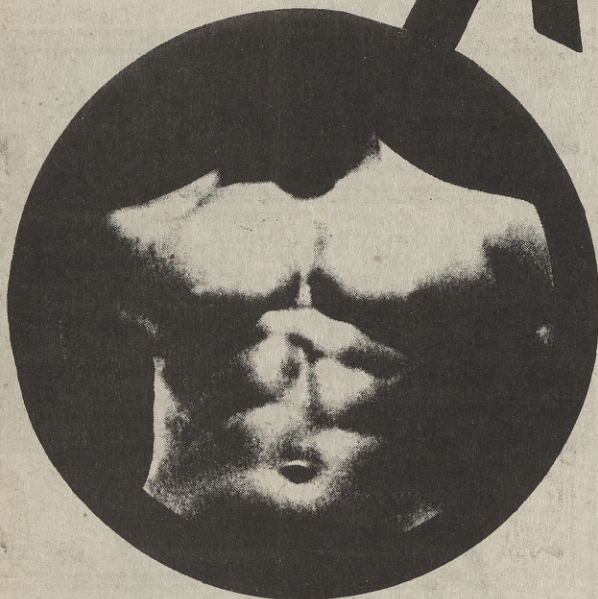
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lives. We continue to have a much higher than average disposable income, we continue to be better educated than the general population, and we continue to control entire occupations. All of this with no help from Washington.

I am rapidly losing patience with gay leadership that thinks that we somehow cannot survive without a life-support system connected to the oval office and the Capitol. Yes, in the world in which we live, the gay community most definitely needs a political arm--for self defense. We need a political arm to get sodomy statutes taken off the books, to eliminate employment discrimination by the government (most notably the military) and to otherwise protect those whose civil rights are actively being dumped on by the state. But once we have succeeded in getting the state off our backs and out of our wallets, the gay reaction to government ought to be a chorus of Who Needs Them?

The reason that the Reagan administration was able to do the tremendous damage it did to the environment was that environmentalists, during the Ford and Carter administrations, vested all power in environmental matters in the federal government, never dreaming that someday James Watt would be Secretary of the Interior. Had authority for environmental matters not been given to the feds, James Watt would have been little more than a nuisance. Imagine now that President Carter had created an Office of Gay Concerns. Can you imagine who President Reagan would have appointed to run it? Paul Cameron, perhaps, or Jesse Helms, or Jerry Falwell, or maybe William Dannemeyer. What a nightmare!

In September 1986 I visited Stockholm. I had been told that the Swedish government is extremely tolerant and supportive of gay people, and I suppose at one level it is. However, upon my arrival I discovered that the Swedish government, in an effort to control alcoholism, has effectively closed down all bars, both gay and straight. In an effort to halt the spread of AIDS, baths and saunas have been closed, both gay and straight. Virtually everything that gay people do to meet each other and have a good time has been shut down by the government, not because of homophobia, but because it otherwise has been deemed to harm the public health. I have had a better time in Omaha than I had in Stockholm. In all candor, the sole redeeming feature, from a gay standpoint, of going to Sweden was that on the train out I met a handsome, red-haired Irishman who found Sweden as boring as I did, and we spent a pleasant three days together--two in Amsterdam and one in Dublin.

My antipathy toward the state does not come from a lack of selfish desire to get some federal money myself--I have the same human nature as everybody else. Rather, it comes from (a) recognizing an obvious racket when I see one, and (b) recognizing that we can do better for ourselves. We really can.

WORDS FROM HOME

by Lynda J. Foro

"WITZELSUCHT"

There is method to the madness of naming a column **Words from Home**. Some might call it masochism; after all, who would want to go on record as being a word freak? Others might think of it as a gimmick, somewhat akin to the search for the Holy Grail, revealing the writer's constant watch for the perfect word to capture a meaning. This writer is here to tell you the God-awful truth: My personal cross to bear in this world is suffering from a terminal case of *witzelsucht*. Until a support group is created for sufferers of this mental illness, I must find relief by sharing my symptoms with an audience.

Witzelsucht is a mental condition, characteristic of frontal lobe lesions. Classic symptoms of *witzelsucht* (pronounced vit'zel-zookt, a German word, and easy for them to say) are the making of poor jokes, puns, and the telling of pointless stories, at which the patient (herself) is intensely amused. Affecting only the best and the brightest, of course, this illness could give new meaning to social disease.

After countless years of creating "words at the office," and hearing the groans of all within earshot, I have made the ultimate sacrifice. I now limit my words to those from home, cleverly working in this column's title as well as the name of my freelance business.

Combining a love for words, a desire for expression, and the ideal of continuity, I offer to you, dear reader, a light-hearted look at man's greatest tools. Before you jump to some other conclusion, the subject is words. The direction we go in may vary from one time to the next, but the vehicle that gets us there will be words.

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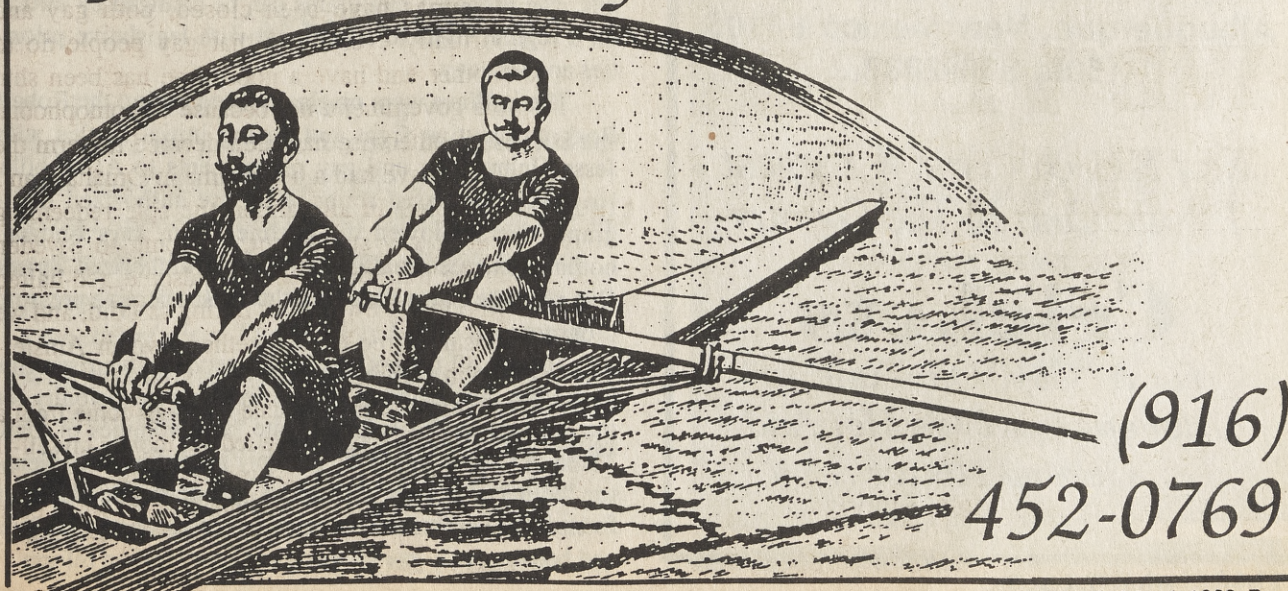
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NEW MAILGRAM CAMPAIGN TO GENERATE HEAT ON THE HILL

There's nothing more persuasive to a politician than an avalanche of mail from voters back home dumped on his or her desk. Now, thanks to the new Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) mailgram "Action Hotlines," gay people and their supporters can increase the volume of mail to Congress intended to influence vital AIDS and civil-rights legislation.

The two new toll-free mailgram hotlines, now in operation, let gay constituents and their supporters send hard-hitting messages on important issues, instantaneously, to their senators and representatives. One hotline is for AIDS; the other is for civil-rights and fairness issues.

The Action Hotline is the first step in a new HRCF campaign called the **Speak Out** program. **Speak Out** is designed to dramatically increase pressure on Capitol Hill using hotlines and other strategies to be announced in the near future.

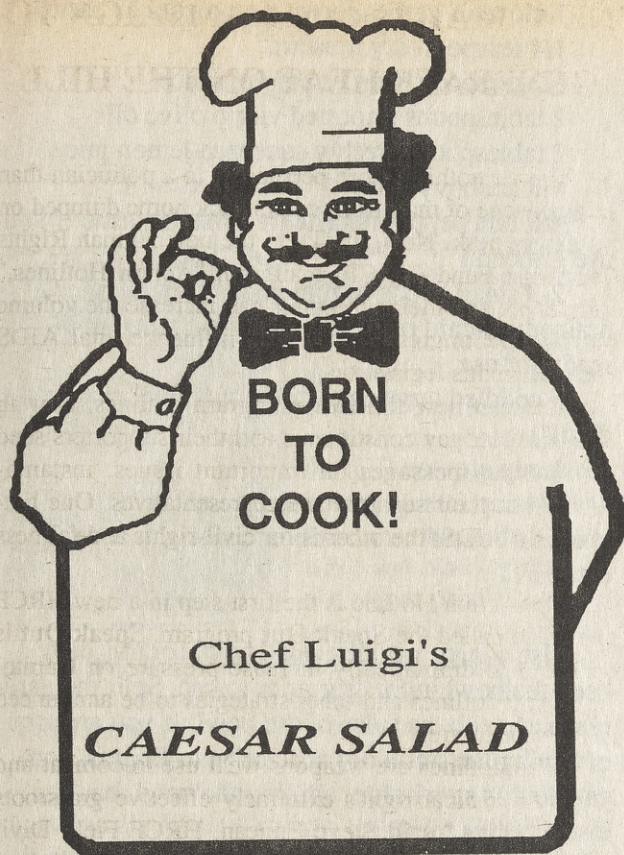
"The hotlines are weapons we'll use to combat and offset the radical right's extremely effective grassroots mail machine," said Steve Endean, HRCF Field Division director. "We still lose too often because members of Congress are flooded by mail from our opponents. Congress doesn't hear from the majority on our side. The hotlines are designed to help change that."

Both hotlines have the same 800 number, but different operator numbers. To send a mailgram, callers dial, without charge, 1-800-257-4900 (day or night) and ask for either Operator 9184 for AIDS messages or Operator 9188 for lesbian and gay-rights messages. The operator will read three 50-word messages on Congressional issues identified by HRCF as targets for grassroots pressure.

The mailgrams cost \$4.50 each (additional mailgrams are \$4) and are charged to the caller's telephone bill. The prepared mailgrams can be changed by HRCF on a regular basis to coordinate with legislative priorities and strategy.

The hotlines were originally used during the Robert Bork nomination fight and during initial battles with Jesse Helms over anti-gay amendments to AIDS bills. However, increased reliance on pre-authorized mailgrams overshadowed the hotlines. But, says Endean, hotline-generated mailgrams and pre-authorized **Speak Out** mail are now needed for the most effective pressure program.

To kick off the hotline, public-service advertisements have been distributed to gay media to create visibility for the hotlines and to help generate large volumes of mail. Three of the ads target the anti-gay amendments of Senator Helms and Representative Dannemeyer. Another focuses on fairness issues, such as discrimination in jobs and housing, anti-gay violence and immigration reform.



Here it is. The chance of a lifetime! The chance to share some of my favorite recipes with you in the coming months. I know I will enjoy it and hope you will also.

To kick things off for March, one of my favorite holidays--the Ides of March. Unlike the days of the Roman Forum, or last weekend at the bars, this is not the time to knife a friend when said friend least expects it, but rather an opportunity to smother that special someone with a culinary delight.

CAESAR SALAD

The secrets for making a great Caesar Salad are the preparation and the presentation. Few non-flaming dishes offer the chef the grand opportunity to show off before his or her guests the way this dish does. If you are not planning to whip this up in front of guests, do something else! The trick is being prepared with less ostentatious items being premeasured in small ramekins. Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien, Op. 45 provides excellent background music. Makes a great first course salad for eight or a man course for four. A nice white Italian Soave wine is the perfect compliment.

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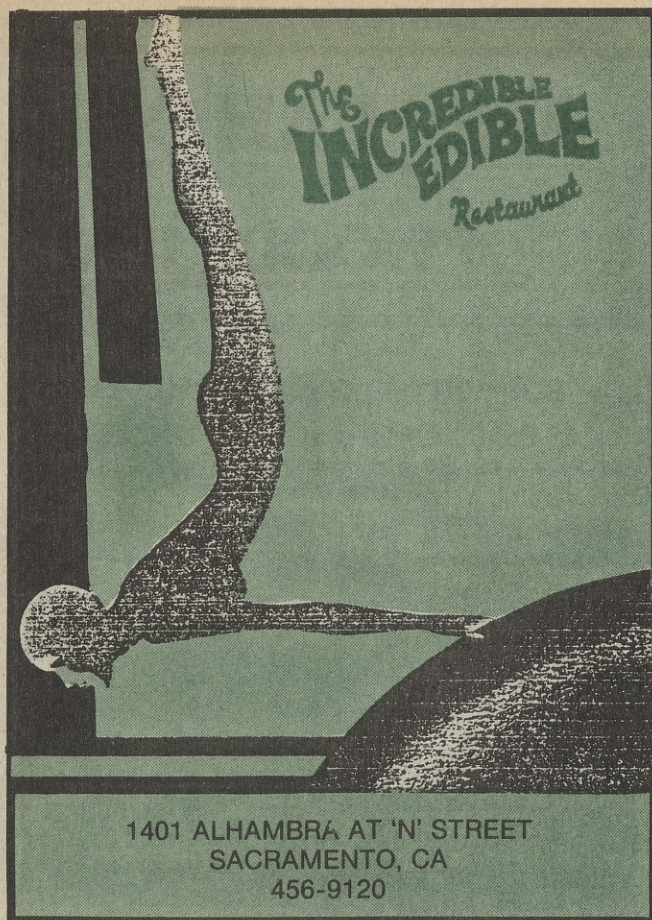
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- 1 clove of garlic (forget the powder or paste)
- 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons imported virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 4-8 anchovy fillets
- salt and pepper to taste (it looks fantastic if you use grinders)
- 2-3 small heads of romaine lettuce, washed, drained; discard outer leaves; keep chilled until ready for use
- 1 coddled large egg (that's "coddled" not "cuddled!")
- 1 cup croutons
- 1/4 cup freshly grated imported Parmesan cheese (the stuff in a cardboard sleeve just can't compare)

Use a large wooden salad bowl for this dish; keep the bowl in the frig prior to use. Split the garlic clove and rub the sides of the bowl. If you are afraid of having the smell of garlic on your fingers, you can do this step before chilling the bowl, but you lose 5 points for flair.

Mix until smooth Worcestershire sauce, olive oil, lemon juice, anchovy fillets and salt and pepper to taste in bottom of bowl. Use the back of a wooden spoon to mash and mix the fillets with the rest of the ingredients. Be grandiose as you combine the ingredients; it's your chance to shine and look like you know what you are doing. It looks great if you freshly squeeze the lemon into the bowl directly. Cover a lemon half with a piece of cheesecloth to prevent seeds from going into the bowl. You lose all points for style if you have to pick the seeds out of the bowl.

Gently tear the leaves of romaine into bite-sized pieces, about 1 inch wide; and place in bowl. Be sure not to over fill the bowl; you need to toss the salad twice, and it looks tacky if the leaves fall out of the bowl, and it will cost any remaining points for flair.

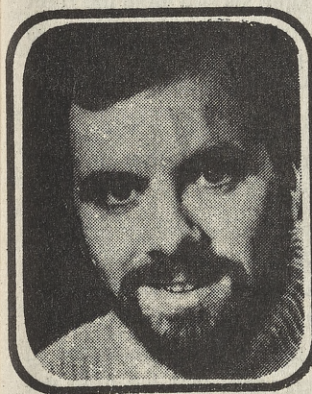
To coddle an egg, place it in a small saucepan with enough water to cover. Bring the water to boil over high heat. When the water boils, remove it from the heat but allow the egg to remain in the hot water for 2 minutes. Remove the egg from the water and set aside until ready to use. Break egg over the lettuce. Toss the salad gently until lettuce is well coated with dressing mixture and egg. Add the croutons and cheese. Toss again. Serve at once on chilled plates. (By the way, most stores carry a wide selection of croutons which will work just fine. For the purest, you can make you own and collect 10 bonus points.)

THE NEXT WAVE

by Douglas N. Lewis

Fundamentalist Fanaticism

The recent global upsurge in religious fundamental-



ism has brought intolerance and closed-mindedness to an all-time high level of absurdity. With this kind of self-righteous passion exploding into violence, the doctrines of the fundamentalist fanatics are being shown for what they truly are--naked prejudice and blinding fear. If a group of people chooses to live in their own moral

prisons, that's their choice; but it seems inherent in the strictures of fundamentalism that this rigid belief be exported, forcibly if necessary, to the rest of the world. Do these followers of "the word of God" really believe that they know what's best for everyone else, even people with profoundly different cultural and social customs? Or are the fundamentalists so afraid that they might be wrong in their own beliefs that they will brook no discussion or exchange of thoughts that would contradict their beliefs? It's one thing to choose ignorance yourself, but to attempt to shackle others to it is wrong and a waste of time, energy and, too often, lives. More people have been killed in the name of God than even God could imagine.

Two recent examples of religious fundamentalism, Christian fundamentalism in the United States and Islamic fundamentalism in the Middle East, have brought to the world stage the ignorance and rigidity of those points of view. The Christian fundamentalist attacks on the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ*, directed by Martin Scorsese, and the Islamic fundamentalist riots in Pakistan and India regarding the Islamic Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie are very clear examples of how religious fervor coupled with a monumental lack of understanding and compassion can combine to cause, at the least, misconceptions and, even more extreme, death. That six people have been killed so far in rioting over Satanic Verses is an indication that something is terribly wrong with religious leaders who call for blind loyalty, obedience and the murder of their critics. The Ayatollah Khomeini has condemned to death the author and anyone else involved in the book's publication who was aware of its content. Mr. Rushdie was quoted as saying, "Frankly, I wish I had written a more critical book. I mean, a religion that claims that it is able to behave like this; religious leaders, let's say, who are able to behave like this, and then say that this is a religion which must be above any kind of whisper or criticism, that doesn't add up." What's even worse is that most of the people demonstrating against Satanic Verses and *The Last Temptation of Christ*

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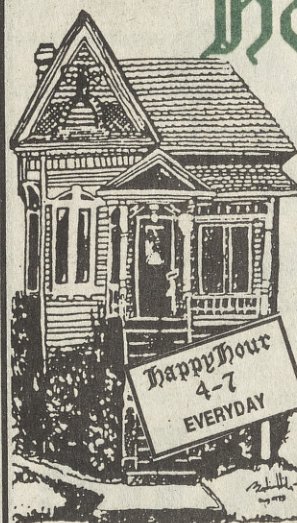
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have not even read the book or seen the movie. This seems to be a common thread amongst fundamentalist groups—if it even remotely sounds like a different opinion or idea, then it is heresy, blasphemous and should be stamped out and punished. Why? Why are so many people so afraid of a different point of view? Why are so many people so willing to accept on faith that which is binding and limiting? I think people should have the right to protest anything they like. I just don't think it's right to try to stop those who have an interest in the work from creating or gaining access to it.

Granted, we here in America live in a very open society and as a result are much more tolerant of other points of view. We are a melting pot that has to accept a lot more in order to get along with each other because we are made up of so many different races and nationalities. What we are discovering is that the world is becoming much like the United States in that, with modern communication technology, ideas are shared and transmitted to every corner of the globe, even ideas that we may not personally care for. And if the Christian fundamentalists are so entrenched in this relatively permissive society, it's easily understood how a beautiful and yet extremely rigid faith such as Islam can be completely inflexible. The world is, indeed, getting smaller, and if we are not careful, we'll leave no room for the diversity of opinion and variation of ideas that are necessary if we are to learn and grow. If we are to survive as a race, we're going to have to live and let live when it comes to differing opinions and ideas, especially in regard to something so passionate and pervasive as religion.

GAY HISTORY

by Terry Boughner, Ph.D.

In 1580, the English Ambassador to France wrote to Queen Elizabeth I, "The Court is the strangest place you ever saw."

Reading his report today, you can almost see him shaking his head in perplexed wonder because the Court he was writing about was that of Henri III (1580-1589), certainly one of the most unusual monarchs of that or any other day.

Henri III was born on September 20, 1551, third son of Henri II and Catherine De Medici. He was also one of 12 children and clearly Catherine's favorite. She called him her "All" and told him that if he should die, she would be buried alive with him. He was indeed a delightful child with a sunny personality and graced, as paintings show, with delicate, feline good looks that he would retain all his life.

At his birth, there seemed very little chance that he would ever rule. His father was in splendid condition and after him, there were two elder brothers. But, as things have a way of happening, in 1559 Henri II was killed in a tournament. The eldest son thereby became Francois II but died of acute mastoiditis within the year. Suddenly,

the second son, Charles, was king and Catherine's beloved Henri was only a breath away from the Throne of the Lilies.

Charles was alive, but the problem with him was that he was a little more than half nuts. Little matter. There was Catherine to handle things. So, while the Queen Mother ruled the realm, Henri turned into a beautiful young man who was very much and very openly gay in a feminine sort of way.

For example, nothing pleased him more than a wonderful new gown or being escorted about on the arm of some well-built, handsome courtier. Once, when his mother gave a royal ball in honor of herself, her "All" showed up in a magnificently bejeweled gown of pink and silver (she had ordered everyone to dress in green), escorted by 12 youths dressed in little more than their natural beauty.

Catherine smiled indulgently, but there were others who took a different view. The Venetian Ambassador wrote that the prince was "an androgyne who passed from Gomorrah to Sodom." Modern historians tend to agree. Jean Heritier writes that "Henri escapes the historian for the psychologist."

Whatever--his mother decided that in today's language, France didn't need two "queens." As much as she loved him, he needed, she thought, to get out of the country and assume some suitable responsibility. Jobs for royal princes were limited, but the throne of Poland was up for grabs, and Henri gained it standing on his mother's bribes.

He hated Poland, the Poles, and everything else about his situation. When, in 1580, he got word that his brother was finally dead and he, Henri, was now King of France, he donned his favorite dress and wig, grabbed his Polish lover, and headed west with all due haste.

Catherine could not have been happier. Her "All" was king and, with her loving guidance and instruction, France would be well managed. If it all sounds a little like operating the family store, remember that Catherine, who had the looks of a decayed fish monger, was always at heart a Florentine shopkeeper.

Arriving in Paris, Henri soon gave notice that his mother's ideas of joint rule were just so many maternal illusions. He fully intended to do things his way. This included forming what he called his "Sacred Band." This was a group of young men of humble origins who had to be handsome, splendidly built, intelligent and, like the king, gay. There were his "Mignons." His intention was to train them, elevate them to the highest positions in the land, and then rule through them.

The idea certainly had its merits. The Mignons could be expected to be totally loyal to the king to whom they owed everything. And, since their gayness was damned by both Catholics and Protestants alike, they could be expected to transcend the religious split that was bitterly dividing France. Thus healed, led by Henri, the nation would ascent to the heights of power.

It might have worked except for good mother Catherine. She was bitterly disappointed at being relegated to the back seat of power and had no hesitation at talk-



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ing about her feelings to anyone who would listen. The problem was that while she still adored him she could not control him. In the way of such things, she decided to destroy him.

Catherine de Medici had allies. For one, the nobility of France hated Henri's "Mignons" as much because they threatened to replace the nobles as for their homosexuality.

There was also Henri de Navarre (then a little mountain kingdom between France and Spain), who was married to Catherine's eldest daughter, Margot. If the King of France died childless as seemed likely, Navarre would succeed him.

In letters to Margot and her son-in-law, Catherine portrayed herself as the sorrowing mother, horrified by Henri who was, she claimed, "a scandal to France and obnoxious to myself."

The King of Navarre needed little encouragement. He wanted the Throne of the Lilies as soon as possible and, in 1584, he declared war "to wipe out sodomy." It was all going to be so easy Navarre thought. In fact he bragged a great deal how sodomites could not fight and how they would run at the first indication of battle.

Henri at the head of his Mignons beat Navarre with little difficulty and sent him scurrying back to his mountain kingdom.

In the end, it was not Catherine or Henri de Navarre or even the French nobility who brought Henri III to his end.

Phillip II of Spain, who saw France as a "nefarious den of sin" only a little worse than Protestant England, encouraged the Duc de Guise, the leader of the French catholics, to rebel. Henri caught wind of the plot and had the Duc and his brother, the Cardinal, killed. Paris, which had for years been fed on Catherine's denunciations of her son, rose in rebellion and, in the confusion, a Dominican monk got near enough to Henri III to murder him.

Henri III was the last of the Valois kings and there were few indeed who mourned him, then or later. Yet, even Heritier admits that he was kind, brave and "had something in him of a great man, perhaps even of genius."

Henri's tragedy was that his gayness was the only criterion by which his contemporaries judged him. That judgement was sorely clouded by an anti-gay bias that refused to let his genius succeed.

[Terry Boughner, received his Ph.D. in history from Catholic University. He lives in Milwaukee where he is associated with the gay newspaper known as Wisconsin Light.)

Interview With

Charles Jurrist

editor of:

SHADOWS OF LOVE: American Gay Fiction

(Alyson Publications, 1989), paper \$7.95.

Q: What's your background, as it relates to putting together a book like **SHADOWS OF LOVE**?

A: Well, I've worked steadily as a critic for quite a few years. I started out reviewing plays for the *Advocate* and then I had the books column in *Stallion*. I also reviewed books for *Mandate* and the *New York Native*. Right now, I'm the dance critic for the *New York Daily News*.

Q: What was the origin of **SHADOWS OF LOVE**?

A: I had written a review of the first volume of *Men on Men*, which I criticized for being fairly predictable. After reading the review, Sasha Alyson got in touch with me and asked if I'd like to put together a collection that took a different approach.

Q: How would you say this book differs from most gay anthologies?

A: It seems to me that most gay fiction has tended to come from two places--New York and San Francisco--and from groups there that consciously regard themselves as constituting the gay literati. Also, prior to the appearance of AIDS, which is now a major theme, certain subjects predominated: coming out, life in the urban fast lane, the sex wars . . .

Q: And you feel you've managed to

get away from that?

A: Well, one of our writers lives in Ferndale, Washington, way up on the Canadian border, and another is a Chicano who was born in Colorado and now lives in Houston. The very first story in the book, "Accountability," is set in Appalachia in the 1940s. I've never encountered anything even vaguely like it in gay fiction. And I was very pleased to see one of the advance reviewers in the trade press comment on how refreshing it was to encounter gay fiction that wasn't all about middle-class white men.

Q: Was there anything else you were looking for in the stories you selected?

A: Yes in a way. If you look at most gay fiction over the last twenty-three years--whether it's *Dancer from the Dance* or *Nocturnes for the King of Naples* or as recent a book as *The Swimming Pool Library*--you'll find protagonists who don't ever seem to "do" anything. They're just gay, as if that were an occupation, and gay angst is pretty much the stuff and substance of the story. I've grown really tired of that, and I don't think I'm alone in that. Gay men do, after all, interact with society, whether for good, as Dag Hammarskjöld did, or for evil, like J. Edgar Hoover or Roy Cohn did. So I searched for characters who were more engaged with the world around them than generally seems to be the case. The boy in "Accountability," for instance, has to worry about earning enough to keep himself and his grandmother alive. And "A View from the Freeway" is about a perpetual student who does have some gay embroilments but also has lots of problems that relate to his status (or lack of it) in life.

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Homosexual Teachers in the Classroom:

The Debate Continues

by Bob Rowe

A few years ago, a state legislator traveled throughout California to promote a referendum which would prohibit homosexuals from teaching in classrooms. Accompanying the legislator was an ordained minister. Together the men proclaimed that homosexuality was a crime against nature and a threat to Christian values. They said allowing homosexuals to teach in the classrooms would expose young people to the "wrong role models." Ignoring the fact that homosexuals have been "teachers" since the process of teaching first evolved and have displayed no greater proclivity for sexual abuse of children than heterosexuals, the men intimated that sexual abuse would increase dramatically if their referendum were defeated.

After listening to their oratory, I decided that it would be impossible to alter the highly politicized, bigoted opinion of the legislator. However, I sensed a certain degree of rationality in the demeanor of the minister and proceeded to write a letter suggesting he reconsider his stand against homosexuals.

I expressed what I thought was a rational, objective explanation of homosexuality. I emphasized that it could be a constructive catalyst for affection, a productive bond between two people in an alternative but reasonable lifestyle. I described it as a natural expression of affection for "those so inclined," and argued that despite fears to the contrary homosexuality leads neither to the downfall nor the extinction of the human race. The reality of fulfilling relationships between men and women bonded by sexual attraction and the potential for procreation is assurance that heterosexuality and thus the human race will survive even in the presence of homosexuality. Eliminating another scapegoat from society's plethora of scapegoats allows people to deal more successfully with reality.

The minister replied to my letter in a thoughtful, thorough manner. Predictably my arguments had little effect on his opinions. He asked on what authority I "impose [my] definitions on the rest of us?" He added, "It had better be a good one because you're betting against the Bible which has proven its reliability, authority, and superiority over every other system since time began."

I responded, "Authority perhaps but reliability and superiority, no." I stated that my opinions are based in all humility on professional and personal experience bolstered by research including biblical sources, but I professed no revelation of infallibility."

The minister also claimed that I was touting a superiority for "singleness." I replied that at no time did I say "singleness" was the superior social arrangement. In fact by advocating complete freedom to choose one's own mate, I was prompting quite the opposite.

Another part of his letter to which I responded included his statement that "...there are some singles, particularly women, who heap abuse on marriage, family, parenting and sexual fidelity." I assured him I was not one of those persons either in gender or advocacy. I challenged his inference that "heaping" of such abuse emanates predominantly from homosexual women. I assured him that a

significant portion of the "heaping" he described could be attributed to certain factions of heterosexual women and heterosexual men. In fact many heterosexual men through domination and infidelity have heaped abuse on women and the true concept of family for centuries. Women are speaking out more freely on all subjects now. Only a relatively few, whether homosexual or heterosexual, extol singleness and denigrate family, a fact in which I am convinced we should rejoice.

The minister ended his letter with "May the Infinite Personal God become your Redeemer, Father and Friend." I thanked him sincerely for his responses and good wishes, and then added a wish of my own: "May faith in the ultimate rationality of human beings become not necessarily your 'Redeemer' or 'Father' but certainly a close acquaintance."

Happily the referendum which the legislator and minister had promoted failed, but as evidenced with the subsequent veto of a gay-rights bill by the governor of California, related fears continue to exist. Identified homosexual teachers still are being ostracized. Discrimination in hiring occurs to the extent that most gays remain "in the closet" when applying for teaching jobs.

The purpose of writing this article is to challenge the dogma that homosexuality at best is unacceptable. I have attempted to quell the fear that acceptance of homosexuality and homosexual teachers will lead to child abuse and the destruction of marriage, family, sexual fidelity and eventually the human race. I have attempted to explain that scapegoats, unquestioned dogma and related irrationalities pose the greatest threats to our society. It is highly unlikely that church decrees, doctors' scalpels, psychoanalysis, cultural taboos or legislation will eliminate homosexuality; nor is it likely that homosexuality will replace heterosexuality as the most common form of sexual expression.

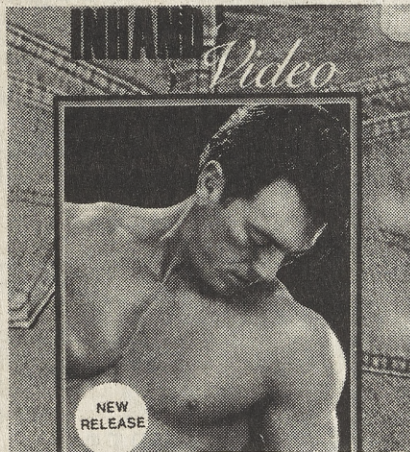
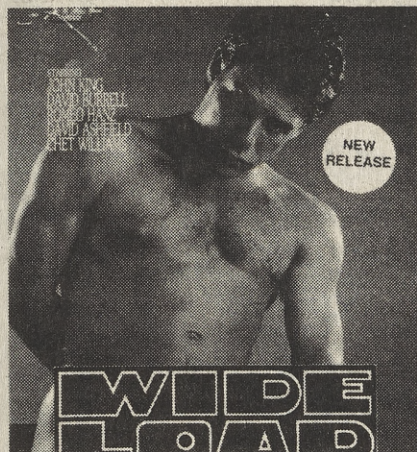
With all the above in mind, it seems logical not to exclude people from the classroom because they are homosexual. Why not welcome to the teaching profession anyone who respects the rights of others, is well informed, communicates effectively and who is dedicated to helping students realize their potential? Child abuse whether sexual or otherwise is not to be tolerated. Those people who rely on scapegoats to build their own self-esteem are to be rejected also. We would do well to question constructively all dogma whether it emanates from politicians, educators, pro or anti gay rights groups, lawyers, laborers, doctors, the church or other "authorities." Let's encourage the education establishment to recruit positive, sensitive, well-informed people; then let's dedicate the classroom to the elimination of ignorance, not to its perpetuation.

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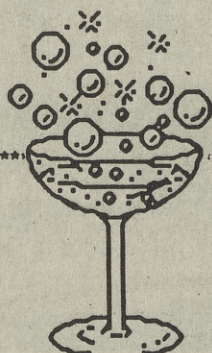
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SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT DEATH

by Casty L. Santos

Death is not something that you think about every day. But it's a big, rude bully that sneaks up behind you and trips you up. After that, you're constantly peering over your shoulder wondering when the next attack will occur. For a long time, it becomes an obsession that refuses to allow you to go on with the opposite: life.

Unlike many others, I have been fortunate that this unfeeling invisible brute has only taken me by surprise a few times. The bad news is: I've always been at a disadvantage from the beginning.

Walking down the road of life, I've been saddled with two left feet. Treading slowly and keeping my fingers crossed, I live in constant fear of landing flat on my face.

Someone told me once that you're supposed to mourn a birth and rejoice over a death because the deceased is going forth into a world where there is eternal life, peace, and happiness. That's when I'm overcome with a selfishness that I'm sure almost everyone experiences; I want to stay here with me; and whenever I die, then it's all right for them to die also.

It's hard for me to believe in God when someone I care for dies. I'm sure He had His reasons for taking someone, but I think He has His priorities all messed up. He always takes the ones who are helping others, leaving the killers and evil-doers on Earth to continue to destroy the most precious gift we have: Life.

Soon, I hope, I will rid myself of this strange obsession I have with death, because I know deep down inside myself that it is trying to pull me down and drown me in a sea of self pity.

There is no way on this earth that mortals can change something that was decided before time ever began. We cannot stop the clock, speed it up, or turn it back.

Time ticks on, sometimes cruelly, into the futures of every living, breathing thing until it is time to die.

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HOROSCOPES

by Dr. Pat Larr

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): A Love Connection reject is headed your way. Head for the hills or your dream date will be headed for Puerto Vallarta.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): How many times are you going to haul your sorry assets by your old flame? Time to find someone new to spark your interests.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): A major department store sale calls out to you this month. Can you resist? The stars say you may give in.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): An old flame longs to re-kindle with you. It won't be a match made in heaven this time either.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): A party person longs to show you the high road to happiness. You'll be the bell of the ball if you don't watch out.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22): A teddy bear longs to cuddle with you. If you've been wanting a toy boy of your very own, at last you've got him.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): Your friends know something you don't? Yes, you've gotten carried away again. You'll have a good time, though!

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): A medical professional longs to sooth your aching bones. You'll have just the bones for the job.

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 22): Your rear guard is down. If you can't hold your end up by yourself, get someone else to do it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): A ditzzy blond sends your pulse racing. Go for the photo finish and you'll get quite a point spread.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): A swinging single swings a big one your way. Yes, you'll be swinging on a star. Go for it!

FAUX PAS

by Ed. E. Kett, A.A.

Dear Edwards,

My last lover introduced me to a lot of fun toys I like to use when I'm "doing it." My last lover kind of petered out, though, and I'm with someone new now. I haven't used any of my toys with my new Mr. Right. There's nothing too big or too scary in my collection (no S&M stuff or nothing), but some of my previous playmates have been scared off in the past. Since I haven't been with this guy very long, I don't want him to think I'm really weird. How do I introduce my playmate to the joy of toys?

Sincerely,
Miles

Dear Miles,

Don't be frightened. Show your toy boy your toy box. Just because you flash your goodies doesn't mean you have to use them with each other. Keep the pressure to a minimum. Latex is a wonderful thing. And who knows? Your toy boy may just decide to toy with more than just your affections.

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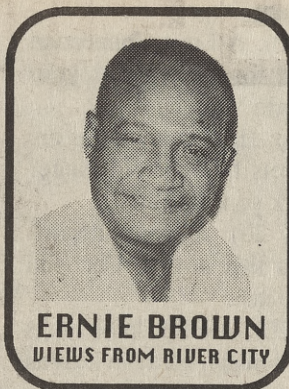


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ERNIE BROWN
VIEWS FROM RIVER CITY

The Ides of March are upon us! But February wasn't just a bad month here in River City USA . . . First of all, congrats: Brandy, the winner of the Closet Ball Princess No. 2 which was held at Joseph's T/C . . . Congrats are also in order for the winner of the Mr.

Imperial Leather Contest held at the Wreck Room. The winner was Mr. J.P. The entire staff at the Wreck Room are to be congratulated for a job well done . . . Another beautiful event which took place was the auction held for our own Aunt Rose at the Merk. It was highly successful. Listen to this. We raised that night over 16 hundred dollars. A community united, in motion. Aunt Rose asked me to express to the entire community her deepest, sincerest "Thank You." She really was touched. In case you didn't know, Aunt Rose is again in the hospital at this writing. However, she is doing much better and hopes to be out soon. Please continue your prayers . . . Let's see what's in store for March besides the Ides . . .

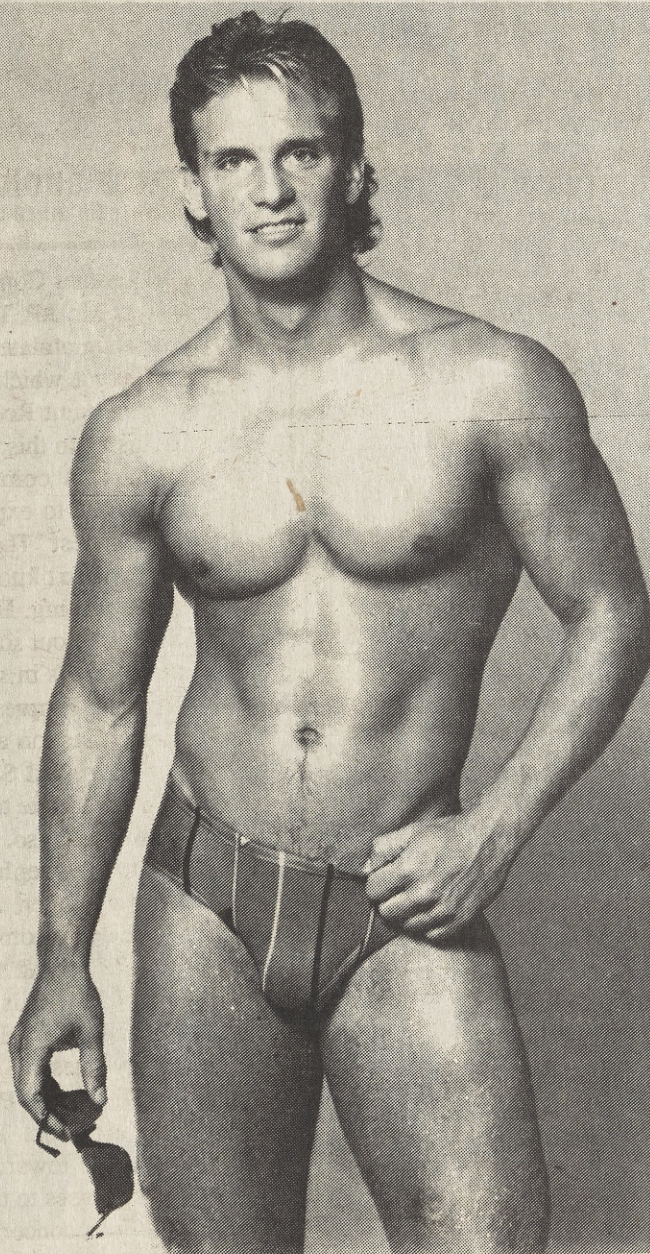
On March 9 Empress LaKish and Emperor Bill will hold another auction at the Merk starting at 6 & PM. All proceeds go toward Sacramento's Coronation-89. Anything you would like to contribute toward the auction we employ you to do so. . . If you haven't checked out the back room at Joseph's Town & Country, well, you should. Its a winner, and right here in River City . . . Here's a fun event coming up, so make a note. April 1st, at Joseph's Town & Country, the Camp Award--89. Starting at 7 PM. This one is always a fun-filled event. So don't miss it . . . Here is something you can think about. Every Tuesday night at Sac City College (Women's Gym) 7:30 til 10 PM you can see our Saga-3 Volley Ball Team in action. There is a \$2 charge at the door. All proceeds go toward Volley Ball Saga-3 uniforms & travelling expenses to the upcoming tournaments. If you need more info concerning volley ball, call Daryl Rice at (916) 442-4641 . . . Congrats to the Hotshots, the gay soccer team sponsored by Patlar. Word is that they have been the talk of the city soccer league recently. Well, anyhow, they finally scored . . . Update on the new bar, The Townhouse: It should be opening in about a month . . . And we've recently learned that still another new bar is in the making, to open around April 1 . . . Watch for announcements . . .

In Memorium:

David Baer, Arthur Bryant, and Bill Lutz.

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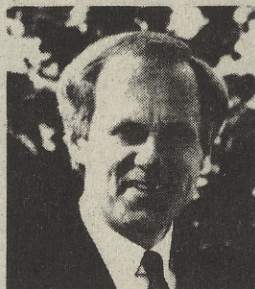
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Sen. Gordon Humphrey



NO PROMO HOMO

Humphrey's distorted "no promo homo" amendments, like those of Jesse Helms, exploit fear and anti-gay bigotry and censor effective AIDS education. Will he win? It's up to you!

Help defeat anti-gay amendments to AIDS bills!

CALL

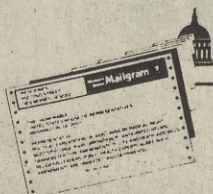
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Send Congress a message. Ask for Operator 9184.

Choose a prepared mailgram. Only \$4.50 each, charged to your telephone.

If you don't know who your legislator is, the operator does.

CALL NOW!



The *Speak Out* mailgram campaign is sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. For further info, contact the Field Division, HRCF, P.O. Box 1396, Washington, D.C. 20013 or call (202) 628-4160.

Play With Me!!!

- ONE-ON-ONE
- CONFERENCE
- BULLETIN BOARD
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NEW

FOR EVEN MORE EXCITING CONTACTS TRY

*** 1-900-999-LINK**

\$2.00 1st minute

*Not available in all areas.

95c each add'l. 1 min.

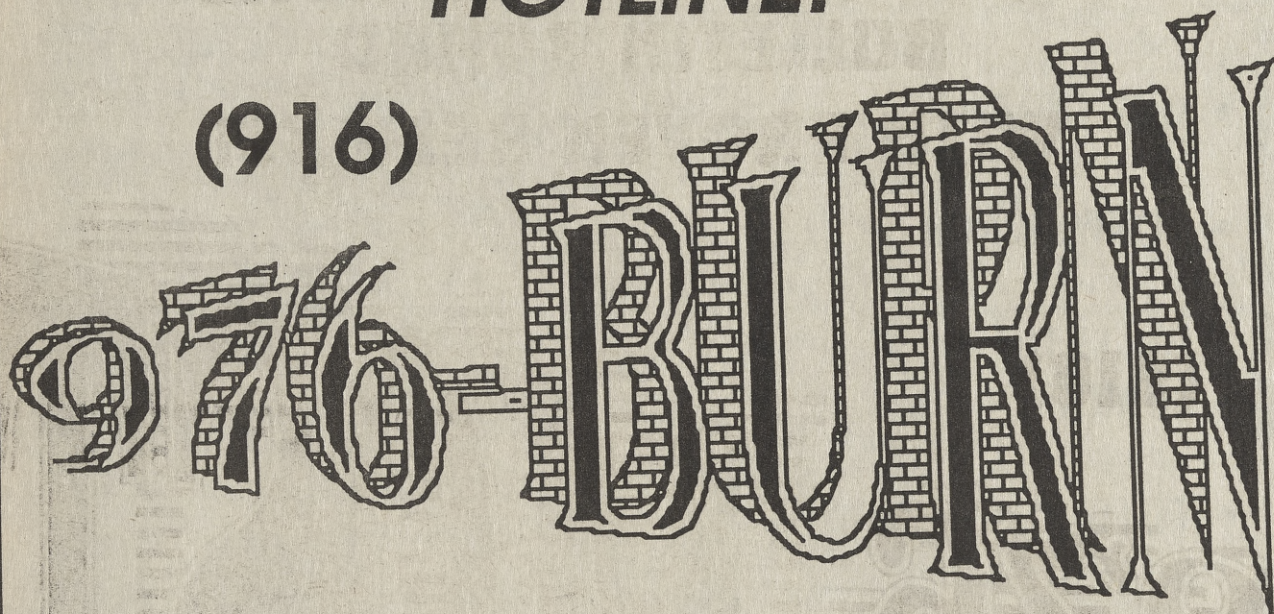
ONLY 95c per minute on your MC or VISA. Must use a touchtone phone. Must be 18.

Charges will discreetly appear on your bill as System 800, International.

FROM THE 976 - MOST PEOPLE

ADULT MESSAGE HOTLINE!

(916)



(916) - 976 - 2876

*Need Some Burning Love?
You'll Find it on Sacramento's*

New Message Hot Line!

Choose from 4 seperate Groups.

Listen to Messages from:

1. Singles
2. Couples
3. Gay Men
4. Lesbians

GET GOOD PHONE!

**LEAVE YOUR OWN HOT MESSAGE FREE
\$2 TOLL**

IT'S NEW! IT'S EASY! AND IT'S YOURS!

CALL 976 - MOST
THE LOCAL SACRAMENTO CRUISE LINE

**YOUR OWN TELEPHONE
BULLETIN BOARD
WITH PROVEN RESULTS!**

(916)
976-MOST
OR CALL
916-976-6678

LEAVE A MESSAGE OR LISTEN TO THOSE
LEFT BY OTHER SACRAMENTO GAY MEN
OR WOMEN.

**DISCOVER THE MOST FABULOUS
WAY TO FIND FUN AND LOVE**

YOUR MESSAGE POSTED INSTANTLY!

24 HOURS

\$2.00 + TOLL, IF ANY

PATLAR CLASSIFIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Pageant Fever"

hits the West...

SCHEDULE CHANGE

Lettuce Entertainment Company announces today that the first pageant, Miss Gay Northern California Pageant has been changed to Saturday, April 15. The original date for the first-of-five contests was scheduled on April 1. Due to another popular event in Sacramento, Lettuce Entertainment Company decided to follow the community event.

For More Info Call:
DOUG CHRISTOFF
(916) 448-8656
[94AS]

JOBS



TOWER

INTERIOR PAINTING SERVICE & GENERAL HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Are you tired of looking at that same old paint on the walls? Well then, give us a call and we'll brighten that old paint right-up.
FREE ESTIMATE ON ALL JOBS LARGE OR SMALL
(916) 441 - 4355

PART-TIME WORK available for physically fit, intelligent, healthy person 30 or younger. Several different jobs available. Call John (916) 483-1521. [92JS]

MASSAGE

MASSAGE

By John

**Escalen
Swedish
Sport**

Classes Available

(916) 483 - 1521

HOT OIL MASSAGE

SWEDISH/ESCALEN

by Carl

(916) 451-6965

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT

HOT OIL MASSAGE. Call
Carl (916) 451-6965.

**HANDS, HEAD,
HEART!**

Logan

916/441-1810. [94ME]

**KNEADING HANDS
MASSAGE.** Jeff M. Ramos,
C.M.T. (916) 446-0605.
[91EME]

BODY RUB CHEAP. Greg
(916) 443-4173. [92ME]

PERSONAL

GAY HUNKY LADY (lots of hunk), looking for companionship and ? Prefer oriental or caucasian between 28 & 42. Enjoys reading, museums, gourmet cooking, movies, cats, flowers, & intimate times with someone special. Enclose a photo if possible. Write Patlar Ad PL-142, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [91EPL]

WM looking for relationship. Must be butch, tall, hairy & well endowed. Loves outdoors. I'm 36, 6'1", bar owner in Northern California. Call Tom (916) 275-4041, after 6:00 PM. [91EPL]

MONOGAMOUS relationship, GWM 39 wants slender GM 25-39, non-smoker, loves camping, movies, cards, gardening, bicycling, non-bar scene. (916) 922-4781. [93PL]

INTERNATIONAL SLEAZE BULLETIN BOARD

FOR GAY MEN

Listen and leave messages for masters, slaves, watersports, fishing, S&M and other kink

**CALL:
(215)**

544-8813

EXT. 2020

\$.95 per min. Billed to your Mastercard or Visa. You must be 18.
[sinderful-pl]

Hot Action Fantasy Line

For Gay Men

Listen in and get off on the action.

**DADDYS - JOCKS
BI - STRAIGHT
UNIFORMS
MASTERS
LEATHER AND
MORE!**

call:

(215) 544-8833

ext. 2000

ONLY \$.95 PER MIN.
DISCREETLY BILLED TO YOUR
MASTERCARD OR VISA.
MUST BE 18. [9INDERFUL-PL]

GWM looking for a friend in Sacramento area. Non-smoker, drinker. (916) 373-1833. Leave msg. [94PL]

WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT hard, hot, hung and horny guys. I write short stories & would like to hear about some of your experiences. Interview completely confidential. No \$\$ but??? Write Patlar CPL-141, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [911PL]

HELLO AGAIN! Eli--you are the handsome hispanic man who introduced yourself to me at the Wreckroom on Fri., Jan. 20. You had just come from eating out and had to leave. My name is Jim. I'd like to see you again. Write Patlar AD 2-10, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

KNEADING HANDS MASSAGE

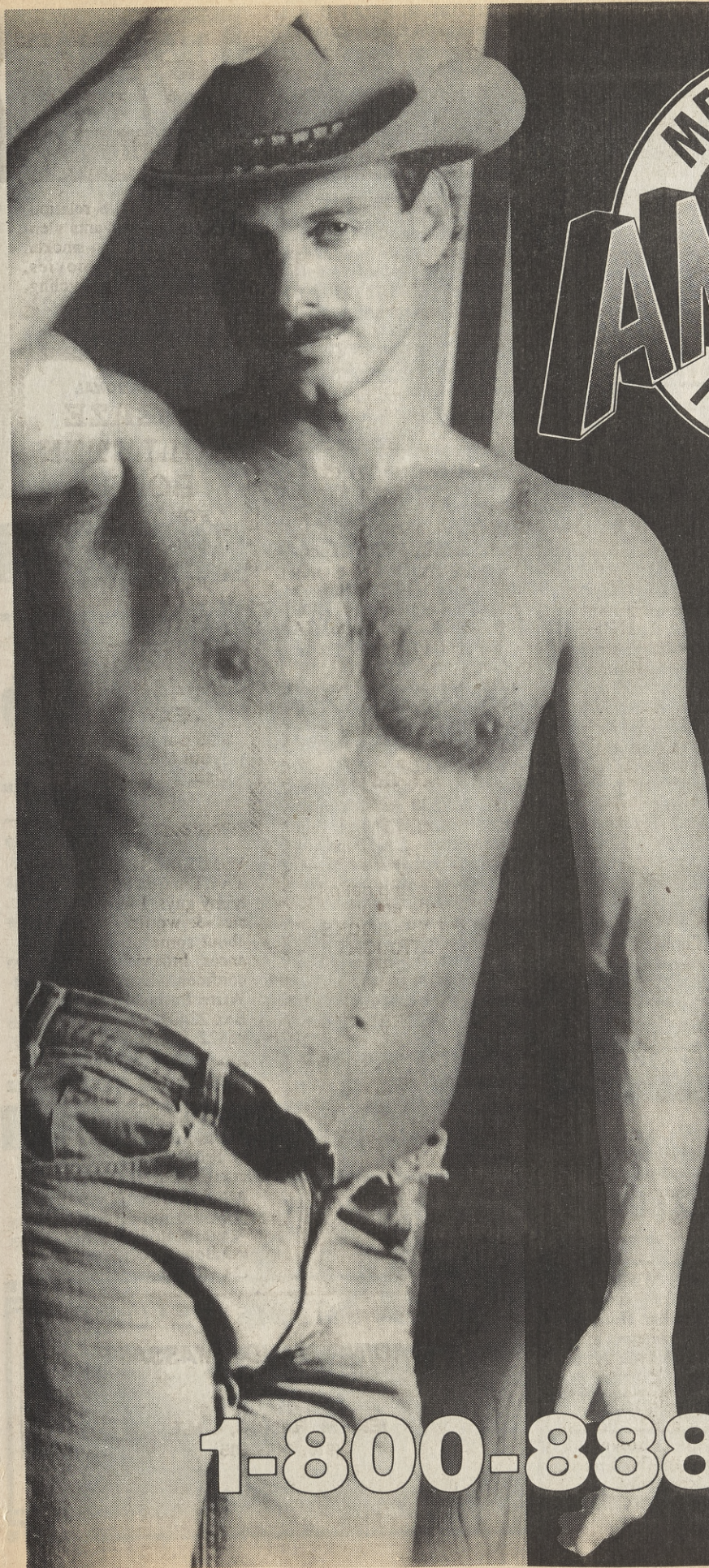
JEFF M. RAMOS, C.M.T.
(916) 446-0605

Affordable Rates For People Living With AIDS

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**PHONE FROM
ANYWHERE
IN THE U.S.**



LIVE Conversation
with up to 8 other
hot men



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connections



Regional Message
Center

Only 95¢ per min. billed
discreetly to your MasterCard
or VISA as "System 800 Int'l #7."
For men 18 and older.

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PATLAR ADS DO THE TRICK!

GOOD LOOKING PHOTO MODEL wanted for private collection. Prefer clean shaven, short, 18-24, hairy legs. Send photo and description to Bill, PO Box 8096, Woodland, CA 95695 [01PL]

GLAD TO BE GAY? GM, many interests which include outdoors and causes. Have mainstream job. Moustache, fair complexion, good looking. Looking for GM with social conscience, intelligence, energy, and perspective who contribute to the gay community. Write Patlar Ad 3-09, c/o Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

IF YOU ARE a transsexual, pre-operative transsexual, or female impersonator and want to meet nice men, join America's only free organization for gals like you--National Female Impersonator/Transsexual Contact Service, Philip Salem, Seattle Gay News, 704 East Pike Street, Seattle, WA 98122 or call (206) 329-TVTS. [9IEPL]

ARE YOU OUT THERE? A delicate male, little body hair, somewhat effeminate, passive in making love, top in sex. Must enjoy this hairy chested muscular man, and be eager to please, both in and out of bed. Age, income, endowment are unimportant; integrity is. Monogamous, relocatable only. Dark skin a plus. I'm earthy, vulnerable, and warm. 5'11", #190, "Rancher" type, and easy to know. Bud, PO Box 62, Woodland, CA 95695. ALL ANSWERED!!!! [91EPL]

PATLAR

Advertise with us!
Affordable Prices!
Widest
Gay Circulation
in
Sacramento
and in the
Nation

GWM, 27, athletic, lean & tall, UCD student, likes to meet health conscious GM (18-30) for long-term partnership. Room for rent. Will answer your letter & photo. Write to Patlar, PL-139, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [98 PL]

WM looking for relationship. Must be butch, tall, hairy & well endowed. Loves outdoors. I'm 36, 6'1", bar owner in Northern California. Call Tom (916) 275-4041, after 6:00 PM. [9IE PL]

RELATIONSHIP WANTED No more flakes! Are you a cute gay man 35ish to 40ish, cheerful, slim with his act together? Do you enjoy beaches, dining out, and movies? Do you have a sincere interest in forming a permanent monogamous relationship? I'm 40ish, an early riser, a nice man. Are you a nice man too? If so, write Patlar Ad 3-01, c/o Patlar, PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

PATLAR'S \$10.00 SPECIAL AD WITH BORDER

MASTER WANTED, Earl (916) 443-4173. [93PL]

RENTALS

STUDIO APT., nice, clean, quiet. Nice area of Sacto. non-smoker & non drinder. Util. included in rent. \$350 mo. (916) 452-0769. First & last.

ROOMMATE WANTED, Bi WM, 21, seeks young college type or similar. House in Sacramento's Rosemont area. Private room/bthrm. Non-smokers only. No drugs. \$350 mo + 1/2 utilities. Rob (916) 369-8508. [94RS]

SHARE large 2-bdrm, 2-bath apt in South Natomas (Sacramento). \$235 mo. plus 1/2 utilities. (916) 649-1316. [94RS]

ROOM & BOARD near downtown Sacramento. Old home--nice, quiet, clean. No smokers, drinkers, or drugers. Util included in rent, meals & laundry facilities. (916) 452-0769.

GWM, seeks roommate. I have a 3 bedroom home in South Natomas (Sacramento) near El Camino & Truxel. Includes pool & spa, \$275 mo + 1/2 util. Avail. March 15, 1989. No pets. Reply to Patlar (PL-143), PO Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822. [94RS]

GAY SACRAMENTO ROOMMATES ASSOCIATION. If you have a room to rent, need a room, or just want to meet others, call (916) 483-1521 seven days a week. Low fee. [94RS]

SHARE APARTMENT,, reasonable, call Gregory (916) 443-4173. [93RS]

FREE ROOM & BOARD for a totally passable transvestite with high sex drive. Leave message at (916) 487-1342. Serious only. John. [93RS]

FOR SALE

FOR SALE, Whirlpool washer & dryer (Harvest Gold) \$200 set. Refrigerator/Freezer (like new), 19 cu. ft. \$200. Craftsman (2 speed) electric blower w/vacuum atch. \$45. Weed Eater electric trimmer \$25. Gas mower w/Briggs & Stratton engine \$95. Office furniture & supplies: Desk \$35. C Rumar synthesizer \$150. 650 Yamaha Special \$350. Call (916) 452-0769. [95FE]

FOR SALE: BEAUTIFUL ROSEVILLE TOWNHOUSE with all the luxuries, only \$112,000. Call Ken Olney (916) 783-3207. [94FE]

PIANO, Upright, Story & Clark. Solid cherry wood. Call (916) 338-0845.

NATOMAS AREA

Large, 3
Bedroom,
2 Baths,
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Heat & Air,
Free-form
Pool,
\$95,000.

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EASY • NO COST • CONFIDENTIAL



MEN YOU WANT TO MEET

If you're looking for a friendship or a serious relationship...Bars, supermarkets and phone lines are NOT the place to find one. There is now a better answer for gay men.

Man Two Man will put you in touch with men who are interested in meeting other men. Call (916) 391-9755 between 6 pm-10 pm only. P.O. Box 22402, Sacramento, CA 95822.

TRAVEL

TWIN PALMS RESORT, 140 Short St., Box 922, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423. Housekeeping units from \$35 nightly. Reservations (707) 998-1970. [92TL]

TWIN PALMS RESORT

140 SHORT STREET
P.O. BOX 922
CLEARLAKE OAKS, CA. 95423

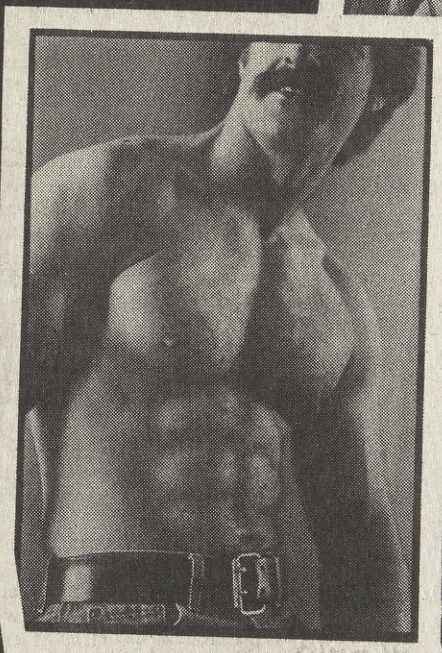
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WITH UP TO EIGHT
OTHER MEN WHO ARE
READY FOR YOUR
TYPE OF ACTION
NIGHT AND DAY!**

**ALL LIVE...
NO ACTORS**



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PATLAR, March 1989, Page Thirty-one

Joseph's



Town & Country

OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY GRAND BUFFET

MARCH 31, 1989
10 PM UNTIL IT IS GONE!
\$2.00 COVER

Featuring:
SHRIMP COCKTAIL
ROAST BEEF, AU JUS
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PORK ROAST, DRESSING, GRAVY
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THANK YOU FOR A GRAND & WONDERFUL YEAR!



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